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The Pacific Railroad.

The two great Anglo-Saxon nations, England and the United States, are contending now peacefully for a prize, of more importance to them respectively than any that was ever gained on the battle field. They are contending for the trade of the Pacific, and the nation that succeeds in winning it will have attained a triumph, the results of which will baffle all attempts at an estimate. It is not alone upon the Central American Isthmus that this question is to be decided. Over the continent of America the rails are to be laid that will connect the ports of the Pacific with those of the Atlantic. Our government was first in the field with its several corps of engineer officers, surveying the most appropriate route for this great national work, and Congress has been engaged during the present session in endeavoring to mature a plan for carrying out the enterprise. Three routes are proposed for the road—a Southern one, crossing New Mexico at El Paso or Allamore; a central one, crossing the Rocky Mountains at the South Pass; and a Northern one, starting from the head of Lake Superior, and crossing Oregon to the Pacific. The probability is that one road only will be authorized by some future Congress, and that the selection of that road will be left to the Executive—if the road is to be built by the government—or to the contractors, if that mode of building it shall be preferred. The estimated cost of one road is a hundred millions of dollars, but we think that a hundred and fifty millions would be much nearer the mark. If the three roads are to be built, the aggregate cost to the government will not fall short of five hundred millions of dollars.

In the meantime, and while rival interests are contending in and out of Congress over the location of the road and the mode of building it, the British government has gone to work and sent out parties of engineers to survey a route from Lake Superior, through its own territories, to the Pacific. This road would open the fertile valleys of Saskatchewan and Red river of the North, make available the gold mining region of Frazer river, and divert the trade of the Pacific through the lakes to Quebec. Thus there are in contemplation four routes, to the Pacific over the continent, the average cost of which cannot be less than one hundred and fifty millions of dollars, or six hundred millions for the whole.

Abandonment of Military Posts in Texas.

Below is an extract from a late order issued by Gen. Twiggs. It will be seen that he has already commenced the new policy adopted towards hostile Indians:

VIII. The following changes in the locations of officers and troops in this Department will be made as soon as possible after the receipt of this order at the different posts affected.

Fort Brown will be abandoned, and company "L," 1st Artillery, will proceed to take post at Fort Duncan, Texas.

Kinggold Barracks will be abandoned, and company "F," 1st Artillery, will proceed to take post at Camp Hudson, Texas.

Fort McIntosh will be abandoned, and company "D," 1st Infantry, will proceed to Camp Hudson, Texas, the commander of it to prepare his company for field service in the spring.

Fort Mason will be abandoned, and Brevet Major Larkin Smith will proceed with his company "A," 8th Infantry, to take post at Fort Clark, Texas. On arrival of Smith's company at Fort Clark, Captain Charles C. Gilbert will proceed with his company "B," 1st Infantry, to the camp near Camp Cooper, to be selected by the commander of the 2nd Cavalry.

Fort McKavett will be abandoned, and companies "C," and "F," 2nd Infantry, will proceed to the camp near Camp Cooper, to be selected by the commander of the 2nd Cavalry.

Speech of Senator Douglas.

Upon the passage of the Oregon Bill, the citizens of the new State celebrated the occasion by serenading several distinguished gentlemen in Washington, whose efforts in the Senate and House in behalf of the measure had been very prominent. Senator Douglas being called upon, made the following excellent speech:

Gentlemen: Most heartily do I join with you in your congratulations upon the occasion, which has brought you here to-night. Another State has been admitted into this glorious confederacy. I confess that it is grateful to my feelings to be thus remembered, although I have ceased to be connected with the Territorial Committee of Congress, in the celebration of the admission of Oregon into the Union.

For many years I took a peculiar interest in the Territory of Oregon. She is a bright exemplification of the great principle of popular sovereignty. Settled at a time when the laws of the United States had not extended over her, the hardy pioneers of progress scattered in the Valley of the Willamette and other smaller valleys, assembled together, and formed themselves a government as perfect and complete as Congress ever framed for the other Territories. For years they governed themselves well, created their legislative, their judicial, and their executive departments, and administered the government in all its branches with fidelity and energy; enacting such laws as were well adapted to the wants of the people, and executing them faithfully and promptly. Oregon thus showed herself capable of self government before she had the protection of the United States.

In 1848 I had the honor of reporting the bill organizing the Territory of Oregon, and after ten years of her Territorial period I have seen her admitted into the Union as one of the States. In Oregon all was peace and quiet. There has been no rebellion, no rioting, and no necessity for the employment of the military to force her people to obey the laws of the land. ["True," and applause.] Oregon, therefore, stands forth with a proud history. Well has she earned the honor which she has now achieved, of being in the confederacy of the other States. I shall receive her Senators upon the floor of Congress with heartfelt welcome when they present themselves during the coming week, and shall raise my voice in congratulations as sincere as theirs on this glorious consummation.

I am glad to see the States increasing in number on the Pacific coast. I wish to see as grand a power on the Pacific as we have on the Atlantic, and both held together and bound together by the great Mississippi Valley. This continent must become one ocean-bound republic, [cheers,] and if the principle of self government and of State rights shall be fairly carried out in the future, our confederacy will extend over the whole continent and adjacent islands. All we have to do is to preserve clearly and distinctly those principles on which our government is founded, maintaining self government in the Territories, and the sovereignty of each State, preserving the Constitution inviolate, and allowing every State to form and regulate its domestic institutions to suit itself, without interference from any power on earth.

We must repudiate and reject that fatal heresy, lately proclaimed, that this government cannot endure as our fathers made it, divided into free and slave States. Let the principles of popular sovereignty, State rights, and the Federal Constitution be carried out in good faith, and this confederacy will extend over the whole continent and endure forever; each State having just such institutions and local regulations as it desires, even if no two of them are precisely alike. Oregon is another exemplification of this principle. The admission of a new State under circumstances so auspicious, and with a history of which our citizens are so proud, is a just subject of congratulation, and I renew my thanks to you for remembering me on this interesting occasion, and giving me the privilege of mingling my felicitations with yours.

POPULATION OF TEXAS.—The population of Texas, as given by the late census, shows a total of 458,620, of whom 138,265 are slaves, 230 free negroes, and the balance whites. In 1850 its total population was 212,492.

The whole number of acres under cultivation is 1,948,215.

Change of Indian Policy in Texas.

We noticed at some length, last week, the bad policy of maintaining in New Mexico so many weak and inefficient military posts, they being a heavy expense to government without affording due security to the inhabitants. So far as these one company posts afford an opportunity to the officers of drawing double rations, and furnish additional expense in the way of contracts and transportation, they answer a very good purpose, but as a defence against Indians they are comparatively worthless. This view of the case is taken by the able and experienced Commander of the Department of Texas, General Twiggs. The following article from the San Antonio Herald, which came to hand after our remarks were published, explains the policy determined upon in regard to Texas. We sincerely hope it may soon be adopted in New Mexico:

From what we have been able to learn since the return of Gen. Twiggs, as to the result of his late consultation with the Commander-in-chief at New Orleans, we think we are justified in saying, that the experiment made last fall by our able Department Commander, of chastising the wild Indians in their mountain fastness, has proved so promising of valuable results, and has given such satisfaction to the Commander-in-chief and the War Department, that it is hereafter to become the settled mode of securing protection to our frontier. Instead of scattering the few troops in the Department along our extended frontier, as heretofore, the forces are henceforth to be kept in effective bodies in the Indian country, instructed to chastise the savages until they sue for peace. The deductions of reason and the facts of experience alike go to show that this mode will be far more efficient than the one pursued by the previous commanders of this Department. Since the brilliant victory of Major Van Dorn, in which he gave the "lords of the prairie" the severest flogging they ever experienced, not a wild Comanche has dared to approach our settlements, and all is peace along the frontier. All honor to our Commanding General for inaugurating this great and effective reform in our Indian policy.

Mules for Farm Work.

We found in Burlington Co., N. J., that mules were the reliance for all kinds of teaming on the road, and for farm work they are in universal use. A friend told us that ten years ago he bought six pairs which he has in use now, worth to-day all he gave for them. It is a well known fact that where they have been long used, they are bought and sold without reference to their age, after they get over six or eight years of age, and it is not unusual to know of their reaching the age of fifty years in good working vigor. Mules with equal size and quality with fine carriage horses are not very rare and bring an equal price. Common, young well broken mules are worth more than horses of equal size. Well broken, and free from tricks, at three or four years old, a mule with ordinary treatment, coarser fare, and harder work, will outlast and outwork at least three good horses. When they are young, say from three to seven years old, they often show great speed, and make excellent, sprightly saddle and carriage beasts; but after this age, especially if put to hard work, they get a heavy, loggy gait, which is abundantly rapid for all farm work, but the activity and sprightliness so requisite in a carriage horse is usually lost.

NEWS FROM THE MOHAVE COUNTRY.—It appears that the Mohave Indians are determined upon hostilities. The command of Lieutenant Chapman, fifty dragoons, forming Col. Hoffman's escort, was attacked on the Colorado by the Indians, whom they defeated with a loss of at least ten killed. The dragoons lost neither man nor horse. United with the Plutes and other tribes, the Mohaves declare that no military posts shall be established in their country.

GEN. JOHNSON COMING HOME.—Gen. Johnson, Commander of the army of Utah, is on his way to "the States," to visit his family. Col. Cooke will take command of the forces, in his absence.

The Admission of Oregon.

The Union numbers thirty-three sovereign States. The House of Representatives, on Saturday, passed the Senate bill admitting Oregon, by a vote of 114 to 103. The yeas and nays are given in our regular Washington telegraphic dispatch. It will be seen that the Administration men generally voted affirmatively, and the opposition negatively, though there were exceptions on both sides. SUMNER of Alabama, and SMITH, of Virginia, voted against the admission of the new State, and NICHOLS, of Ohio, and COLFAX, of Indiana, for it.

The admission of a new State into the Union of States is an event calculated to produce a glow of national pride, and to enlist the hearty sympathies of the people of all States.—Oregon is vast in territory, with incalculable natural resources, and a hardy, intelligent enterprising population. Her position upon the map of our country is one that all must regard with high satisfaction and solicitude. However great the distance that separates us, her people are our kindred, and the flag that flies over them in the breeze from the Pacific, is the same that floats over us. Their rivers and ours run to different oceans, but their affections and ours as citizens are bound up in the same nationality. We have now two States upon the Pacific—two mighty pillars of the temple of the Union, towering staunch and majestic on the western verge of the continent. Bright and expansive as were the visions of the Fathers of the Republic, this result is more than they dreamed. It is sad to reflect in such a connection that the civil and moral character of the people is not invested with the glory that would so happily become such material grandeur. [Cin. Com.]

ENGLAND AND MEXICO.—The Queen, in her recent speech to the English Parliament, threatens the employment of force against Mexico. The threat, however, has been anticipated. Force has already been employed by the British and French admirals in the gulf, and the Mexican revenues have been seized upon. While the United States is talking about intervening in Mexican affairs, England and France are acting, and already appear to have the country under their control.

PICTURES.—A room with pictures in it, and a room without pictures, differ by nearly as much as a room with windows and a room without windows. Nothing, we think, is more melancholly, particularly to a person who has to pass much time in his room, than blank walls, with nothing on them; for pictures are loop holes of escape to the soul, leading it to other scenes and other spheres. It is such an inexpressible relief to a person engaged in writing, or even reading, on looking up, not to have his line of vision chopped off by an odious white wall, but to find his soul escaping, as it were, through the frame of an exquisite picture, to other beautiful and perhaps heavenly scenes where the fancy for a moment may revel, refreshed and delighted. Thus pictures are consolers of loneliness; they are a relief to the jaded mind; they are windows to the imprisoned thought; they are books; they are histories and sermons, which we can read without the trouble of turning over the leaves.

HAPPY COMBINATION.—There is nothing purer than honesty, nothing sweeter than charity, nothing warmer than love, nothing brighter than virtue, and nothing more steadfast than faith. These, united in one mind, form the purest, the sweetest, the richest, the brightest, the holiest, and most steadfast happiness.

A Democratic Convention.

A convention of the Democracy of Kentucky was held at Frankfort last month, consisting of six hundred and seventy-two delegates, subdivided thus:

Ex-Governors.	2
Generals.	14
Colonels.	493
Majors.	93
Captains.	35
Squires.	13
Total.	672

The candidates were all Colonels!—and politics in "Old Kentucky" is decidedly under "military protection!" In Arizona, however, where we have not over twenty untitled inhabitants, we can beat that!

"Let all the ends thou aimest at be thy Country's, God's, and Truth's."